WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is RNA.

3. The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is DNA.

4. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. A recombinant host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 4.

6. A monkey cathepsin S protein, in substantially pure form comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

7. A monospecific antibody specifically immunologically reactive with monkey cathepsin S protein.

8. The antibody of Claim 7, wherein the antibody blocks protease activity of the monkey cathepsin S protein.

9. A process for expression of monkey cathepsin S protein in a recombinant host cell, comprising:

   a) transferring the expression vector of Claim 4 into suitable host cells; and

b) culturing the host cells of step (a) under conditions which allow expression of the monkey cathepsin S protein from the expression vector.

10. A method of identifying compounds that modulate monkey cathepsin S protein activity, comprising:

a) combining a compound suspected of being a modulator of monkey cathepsin S protein activity with monkey cathepsin S protein; and

b) measuring an effect of the compound on protease activity of the monkey Cathepsin S protein.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the effect of the modulator on the protein is inhibiting or enhancing cysteine protease activity.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound active in the method of Claim 10, wherein said compound is a modulator of monkey cathepsin S protease activity.

13. A method of treating a patient in need of such treatment having a condition which is mediated by cathepsin S, comprising administration of a monkey cathepsin S modulating compound active in the method of Claim 10.